



### Sickness Exclusion Policy 2018-19

This policy sets out the exclusion periods from school for children who are ill, including if they are infectious. St Thomas of Canterbury School takes into consideration guidance from the Health Protection Agency with regards to exclusion periods for illnesses and infection control, as well as the needs of the children and staff. This policy is particularly important at our school because we have a large number of vulnerable children with complex medical needs. For some of the children, contracting a common illness or infection could be **life threatening**.

Illness/Infection	Exclusion Period for children
Chicken Pox/Shingles	5 days from onset of rash as long as spots are crusted over
Cold Sores (Herpes simplex)	None
Conjunctivitis	None (If there is an outbreak we will consider exclusion after consultation with the HPA)
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting including Rotavirus/Norovirus/Gastroenteritis	48 hours from the last episode. (Also, after 3 or more loose stools in a school session as a result of illness/infection, children are required to be sent home and may return 48 hours after the last episode) <b>With any vomiting (whether this is a result of illness or not) we take a precautionary approach due to the vulnerability of some children and therefore we abide by the 48 hour rule as advised by the NHS**</b>
Flu (Influenza)	Until recovered fully enough to participate in school activities
German Measles (Rubella)*	6 days from onset of rash
Glandular Fever	None, however must be well enough to participate in school activities
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	None however must be well enough to participate in school activities. (If there is an outbreak we will consider exclusion after consultation with the HPA)
Head lice	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment
Measles*	4 days from onset of rash
Meningitis*	Until recovered (We will follow the instructions of the local Health Protection Unit)
Mumps*	5 days after onset of swollen glands
Ringworm	Until treatment has commenced
Scabies	Until treatment has commenced
Scarlet Fever/Scarletina*	24 hours after commencing antibiotics

Slapped cheek/Fifth Disease/Parovirus	None, however must be well enough to participate in school activities
Threadworm	None
<p>The school applies the 48-hour rule strictly and we would ask all parents to support us with this.</p> <p>What does 48 hours mean? Please use this example as a guide:  If a child's last episode of sickness/diarrhoea is on Tuesday between 9.00am and 12.00pm, we would expect the child back in school on Thursday for the <b>afternoon</b> session.  When you collect your child the school office will advise the earliest time your children can return.</p>	

**\* = Notifiable diseases**

**\*\* = NHS Guidance** - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please note this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusions.

Parents should always seek advice from their GP or Accident and Emergency department regarding the specific symptoms of their child. NHS Direct 0845 4647 [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

### Children who are ill

It is at the school's discretion whether or not to allow a child into school if they are showing signs of illness, even if there is no exclusion period or if this is after any exclusion period has passed or if a doctor has stated that they are not infectious. The school will need to take into account the demeanour of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in school activities. They must also consider whether allowing a sick child in school would affect the staff to child ratios, as children who are unwell may require continual one to one attention. If we allow a child showing signs of illness or who has recently recovered from an illness into school then we will monitor them regularly and will contact parents to ask that they are collected if they become unwell again.

### Illness Outbreaks

If there is an outbreak of an illness in school then we will consult with the local Health Protection Unit for advice. We may decide to exclude children in order to control an outbreak even where this is not listed in our normal exclusion policy.

### Infectious Illness reporting

If a child has an illness we would request that the parents contact the school as soon as possible so we can communicate this to all staff and parents, as well as Health Protection and Ofsted if it is a notifiable disease. This is particularly important in case a child has come into contact with a pregnant staff member or parent.